



Port and Borough of King's Lynn.

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**ANNUAL REPORT**  
OF THE  
**Medical Officer of Health**  
**FOR THE YEAR 1941**

BY  
**JAMES W. McINTOSH**  
B.Sc. (Public Health) M.B.Ch.B., F.R.C.S.E.

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WITH WHICH IS INCLUDED THE  
**Annual Report of the**  
**Borough Sanitary Inspector**  
**Mr. H. G. COBBOLD, M.S.I.A.**



# BOROUGH OF KING'S LYNN.

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## Health and Port Health Committee.

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Chairman : The Mayor (Councillor J. HARWOOD CATLEUGH).

Alderman W. B. LOCK.

„ J. W. RABY.

„ G. G. SADLER.

„ L. SKINNER.

Councillor A. A. ANDERSON.

„ J. J. BONE.

„ D. F. BURLINGHAM.

„ A. P. BURTON.

„ A. L. CARPENTER.

„ A. M. FISHER (Mrs.).

„ T. A. FROST.

„ H. IVES.

„ J. T. NEAVE.

„ W. J. PANTON.

„ J. WHITMORE.

## BOROUGH OF KING'S LYNN.

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### Public Health Officers of the Authority :—

- (a) (Medical). All Medical Officers are part time. Some are employed by the Norfolk County Council and hold Clinics, etc., in King's Lynn.

Medical Officer to the Health and Port Health Authority ;  
Superintendent of Infectious Disease and Smallpox Hospitals  
and School Medical Officer :—

JAMES W. McINTOSH, B.SC. (Public Health), M.B.,  
CH.B., F.R.C.S.E.

Tuberculosis Officer (Norfolk County Council) .—

T. V. R. PHILIP, M.B., CH.B., D.P.H.

Venereal Disease (Norfolk County Council) :—

JAMES W. McINTOSH, B.SC. (Public Health), M.B.,  
CH.B., F.R.C.S.E.

Maternity and Child Welfare :—

E. M. BAKER-BURTON, M.B., CH.B.

Consultant Medical Officer under Midwives Act :—

Vacant.

Ophthalmic Surgeon :—

S. T. PARKER, M.B., CH.B., L.R.C.P., F.R.C.S.ENG.

Poor Law Medical Officer and Public Vaccinator :—

M. CHADWICK, B.A., M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P.

- (b) Veterinary Surgeons :—

H. C. SWANN, M.R.C.V.S.

H. C. GREATOREX, M.R.C.V.S.

Public Analyst :—S. GREENBURGH, F.I.C., F.C.S.

Senior Sanitary Inspector to the Health and Port Health  
Authority :—

H. G. COBBOLD, M.S.I.A.

Additional Sanitary Inspector to the Health and Port Health  
Authority :—

H. F. ROBINSON, M.S.I.A., A.R.SAN.I. (On Active Service).

Vaccination Officer :—G. H. J. CHAMBERLAIN.

Health Visitors :—

Miss G. R. PEIRSON.

Mrs. A. M. PARKER.

Miss C. M. BENSON.



*To the Chairman and Members*  
OF THE  
Health and Port Health Committee  
of King's Lynn.

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*Public Health Department,  
Town Hall.*

*King's Lynn,*

*May, 1942.*

Madam and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to submit my Annual Report for the year 1941.

The population varies considerably owing to the changes in the number of soldiers, evacuees, refugees and the calling-up of men and women.

Stanley House Sick Bay has treated 112 children. There have been 18 sent in from the County owing to outside Sick Bays being full. Scabies has up to the present been the chief disease requiring treatment.

I can still repeat two sentences from the reports of 1939 and 1940, viz. :—" The general health of the Borough was good. There were no serious outbreaks of Infectious Diseases."

The Gaywood Drainage Scheme is still not finished, but work is in progress.

The water supply has been satisfactory throughout the year. The gathering ground of the water supply has been visited and no important alterations have taken place.

The Air Raid Precautions Scheme has worked well during the year.

There have been 2,004 confinements during the last five years in the Borough. There was one maternal death during the last year. The maternal mortality is therefore one death in 2,004.

**Mortality of Infants under one year.**

18 children died under the age of one year.

There were 6 premature babies. It is probable that some of these babies were born prematurely as the result of bombing

raids. 4 children died suffering from congenital defects and it was impossible to save them. 1 child was neglected and the mother was prosecuted. One child died suffering from neglect at birth, neither doctor nor midwife were called in time. One child died of T.B. meningitis. The remaining 5 died from broncho-pneumonia.

It would therefore have been theoretically possible for 7 of these children to have been saved. Even the child with T.B. meningitis might, under perfect conditions, have been prevented from developing this fatal disease.

I have given the actual details of the causes of death as I think it gives a much better idea of the extent of the problem and possibilities of saving the lives of these children than a mere percentage figure, which is not very helpful when the figures are so small.

It is worthy of note that no cases of infantile diarrhoea were reported during the year. This disease used to be one of the commonest causes of death of infants under one year.

### **Venereal Diseases.**

I am glad to be able to report that the control of Syphilis has been successfully maintained during the past year.

### **Scabies.**

This is still one of the chief troubles which has come upon the town owing to war conditions.

### **Infectious Diseases.**

The following table gives the number of Infectious Diseases amongst the school children during the past eight years, viz. :—

	1934	1935	1936	1937	1938	1939	1940	1941
Measles	198	3	294	11	39	30	271	59
German								
Measles	—	—	—	—	87	39	32	—
Scarlet Fever	64	27	36	15	8	7	5	58
Diphtheria	1	6	4	4	24	10	5	14
Whooping								
Cough	2	127	13	29	49	41	13	45
Typhoid Fever	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Chicken-Pox	21	166	9	155	30	65	26	32
Mumps	335	3	1	2	2	159	3	7
Ringworm	—	—	—	—	—	—	3	—
	<hr/> 621	<hr/> 332	<hr/> 357	<hr/> 216	<hr/> 239	<hr/> 331	<hr/> 358	<hr/> 215

## GENERAL PROVISIONS OF HEALTH SERVICES FOR THE AREA.

### 1.—(a) **Laboratory Facilities.**

No change.

### (b) **Ambulance Facilities.**

No change.

### (c) **Nursing in the Home.**

No change.

### (d) **Treatment Centres and Clinics.**

No change.

### (e) **Hospitals.**

No change.

### 2.—(i) **Midwifery and Maternity Services.**

Maternity accommodation is provided for refugee mothers by the Norfolk County Council.

### (ii) **Institutional Provision for Mothers and Children.**

No change.

### (iii) **Health Visitors.**

No change.

### (iv) **Infant Life Protection.**

No change.

### (v) **Orthopaedic Treatment.**

No change.

Owing to war conditions my report has had to be considerably curtailed.

## SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA.

### (i) **Drainage and Sewerage.**

The Gaywood Sewer is still under construction.

### 2.—**Rivers and Streams.**

No change.

### 3.—(i) **Closet Accommodation.**

No change.

### (ii) **Public Cleansing.**

No change.

(iii) **Sanitary Inspection of the Area.**

The following is a summary of the work done during the year under the various Public Health and Housing Acts, viz. :—

- 1,272 Special complaints and special visits made.
- 224 Informal notices and intimations served.
- 53 Statutory Notices served.
- 25 Notices fully completed according to specification.

Also :

Houses and rooms cleansed	...	...	...	6
Rabbits removed to bottom of garden	...	...	...	1
Water closet cisterns repaired or renewed	...	...	...	22
Drains re-laid or repaired	...	...	...	17
Drains unblocked	...	...	...	28
Inspection chambers provided	...	...	...	1
Galvanized iron ashbins supplied	...	...	...	15
Dampness of walls remedied	...	...	...	3
Pigs removed	...	...	...	1
Ceiling plaster repaired	...	...	...	4
Walls rendered	...	...	...	1
Ceilings repaired	...	...	...	2
Overhanging branches of trees adjoining property cut off	...	...	...	1
Stoves repaired or renewed	...	...	...	3
House drains connected to sewer	...	...	...	34
Wall plaster repaired	...	...	...	2
Coppers repaired or renewed	...	...	...	6
Windows repaired, renewed or made to open	...	...	...	3
Sashcords renewed	...	...	...	2
Brickwork repaired or renewed	...	...	...	1
Woodwork repaired or renewed	...	...	...	1
Eaves gutters provided and fixed	...	...	...	14
Tap repaired	...	...	...	1
Water closets provided and fixed or repaired, cleansed or unblocked	...	...	...	37
Roofs repaired or renewed	...	...	...	21
Floorboards repaired or renewed	...	...	...	10
Choked fall pipes cleared or repaired	...	...	...	12
Sink wastes repaired	...	...	...	4
Walls cleansed	...	...	...	6
Chimney cleansed and soot nuisance abated	...	...	...	1
Accumulation of refuse removed	...	...	...	7
Yard paving repaired or renewed	...	...	...	5
Rain water pipes unblocked or repaired	...	...	...	5
Dangerous chimney taken down	...	...	...	1

*Houses let in Lodgings.*

No change.



*Common Lodging Houses.*

The three common lodging houses were regularly visited and found to be conducted in a satisfactory manner.

*Offensive Trades.*

These premises were visited at intervals and found to be conducted in a satisfactory manner.

*Piggeries.*

There are no piggeries in the Borough. There are a few sties where one sow is kept with her litter, these premises were inspected regularly.

*Meetings of Owners and Tradesmen.*

201 meetings were held with regard to defective houses, drains, etc.

*House Drains.*

During the year 268 drains were tested and examined. In all cases where defects were found notices were served on the owners concerned.

*Rats and Mice (Destruction) Act, 1919.*

The control of rats is being attended to.

*Smoke Abatement.*

No legal action has been taken in any case.

*Swimming Baths.*

No change.

*Eradication of Bed Bugs.*

(2) Number of house rooms disinfected (including Council and private houses) ... ..	58
(2) Number of house rooms infected ... ..	58

*Schools.*

No change.

## HOUSING STATISTICS.

### 1.—Inspection of Dwellinghouses during the year:—

(1) (a) Total number of dwellinghouses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts) ... ..	123
(b) Number of inspections made for the purpose ... ..	246

(2)	(a)	Number of dwellinghouses (included under sub-head (1) above) which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidated Regulations, 1925	...	...	...	78
	(b)	Number of inspections made for the purpose...				156
(3)		Number of dwellinghouses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation	...	...		Nil.
(4)		Number of dwellinghouses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-head) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation	...	...	...	24

**2.—Remedy of defects during the year without service of Formal Notices :—**

		Number of defective dwellinghouses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their officers	...	...	17
--	--	--	-----	-----	----

**3.—Action under Statutory Powers during the year :—**

(a)		Proceedings under Sections 9, 10 and 16 of the Housing Act, 1936 :				
	(1)	Number of dwellinghouses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs	...			73
	(2)	Number of dwellinghouses which were rendered fit after service of formal notices :				
		(a) By Owners	...	...	...	73
		(b) By Local Authority in default of owners				Nil.
(b)		Proceedings under Public Health Acts :				
	(1)	Number of dwellinghouses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied	...	...	...	Nil.
	(2)	Number of dwellinghouses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices :				
		(a) By Owners	...	...	...	Nil.
		(b) By Local Authority in default of owners				Nil.
(c)		Proceedings under Sections 11 and 13 of the Housing Act, 1936 :				
	(1)	Number of dwellinghouses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made	...	...		Nil.
	(2)	Number of dwellinghouses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders	...	...		Nil.

(d) Proceedings under Section 12 of the Housing Act, 1936 :

- |  |     |     |     |     |      |
|--|-----|-----|-----|-----|------|
| (1) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were made   | ... | ... | ... | ... | Nil. |
| (2) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were determined the tenement or room having been rendered fit | ... | ... | ... | ... | Nil. |

## INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

(b) **Meat and other Food.**

No change.

*Slaughter-houses.*

(See Meat and other Food). 767 visits have been made to Slaughterhouses during the year.

*Markets.*

No change. 30 visits have been made to markets during the year.

*Bakehouses.*

Number of bakehouses on the register	...	...	...	...
Visits paid to bakehouses	...	...	...	35

(c) **Food and Drugs (Adulteration) Act, 1928.**

During the year 53 samples of Food and Drugs were submitted for analysis. The following action was taken against vendors, viz. :—

4/4/41. New milk. Deficient in fat to the extent of 37.33%.—  
Cautioned.

26/9/41. New milk. Not genuine.—Prosecution.

26/9/41. New milk. Not genuine.—Cautioned.

26/9/41. New milk. Not genuine.—Prosecution.

3/10/41. New milk. Added water.—Prosecution.

3/10/41. Ground almonds. Not genuine.—Prosecution.

3/10/41. New milk. Not genuine.—Prosecution.

(d) **Chemical and Bacteriological Examination of Food.**

This was carried out by S. Greenburgh, Esq., F.I.C., F.C.S., Public Analyst, Tenison Road, Cambridge.

(e) **Nutrition and Provision of Meals at Schools.**

Free milk has been ordered for 280 children, of whom 80 receive a double ration daily. The Education Authority is now providing free meals to under-nourished school children. There are about 60 children taking advantage of this scheme.

# CARCASES INSPECTED AND CONDEMNED.

	Cattle excluding Cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs
Number killed (if known) ... ..	1263	532	594	6284	2543
Number inspected ... ..	1263	532	594	6284	2543
All diseases except Tuberculosis—					
Whole carcasses condemned ... ..	4	1	2	30	2
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned ... ..	174	65	4	32	35
Percentage of the number inspected affected with disease other than Tuberculosis ... ..	14%	12%	1.01%	.827%	1.45%
Tuberculosis only—					
Whole carcasses condemned ... ..	23	10	—	—	6
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned ... ..	367	264	1	—	277
Percentage of the number inspected affected with Tuberculosis ... ..	30.87%	51.54%	.168%	—	15%



# CHEMICAL EXAMINATION OF FOOD.

Article	Samples Taken		Samples Unsatisfactory	
	Formal	Informal	Formal	Informal
New Milk	30		5	
Ground Coffee	1			
Butter ...	1			
Lard ...	1			
Ground Ginger	1			
Baking Powder	1			
Ground Almonds			2	
Saccharin (full strength)	3			
Ground Almond Substitute ...	2			
Totals	40		7	

## PREVALENCE OF, AND CONTROL OVER, INFECTIOUS AND OTHER DISEASES.

There were no cases of Smallpox in the Borough during the year.

There were 104 cases of Scarlet Fever, 57 of whom were school children. 36 of the cases were removed to the Infectious Diseases Hospital. No deaths were attributed to Scarlet Fever.

There were 23 cases of Diphtheria, 13 of whom were school children. 9 of the children were removed to the Infectious Diseases Hospital. 2 deaths were attributed to Diphtheria.

There were 4 cases of Puerperal Pyrexia and 1 death from Puerperal Sepsis, or other Puerperal causes.

Venereal Disease is treated at the West Norfolk and King's Lynn General Hospital by arrangement with the Norfolk County Council and a separate report is sent to the Ministry.

Enquiries were made with reference to all cases of Infectious Diseases notified. 551 rooms and 56 hospital wards were disinfected and 3,537 articles were treated at the Steam Disinfector.

### ANALYSIS OF DIPHTHERIA FOR THE PAST TEN YEARS.

	Notifica- tions.	Under One.	1 to 5.	5 to 15.	15 to 25.	25 to 45.	45 to 65.	Deaths
1931	28	—	7	12	4	3	2	4
1932	19	—	4	9	3	3	—	2
1933	3	—	1	2	—	—	—	1
1934	5	—	1	3	—	1	—	2
1935	12	—	2	6	2	1	1	1
1936	11	—	2	7	1	1	—	—
1937	16	—	2	8	2	4	—	—
1939	15	—	2	13	—	—	—	—
1940	33	—	9	21	2	1	—	3
1941	23	1	5	14	1	2	—	—

#### Diphtheria :—

Gaywood Park School	...	...	...	10
St. James' School	...	...	...	2
St. Margaret's School	...	...	...	1
Under school age	...	...	...	6
Over school age	...	...	...	4

14 cases were removed to the Infectious Diseases Hospital.

Ambulances were fumigated 45 times after cases had been removed to the Infectious Diseases Hospital.

#### Rooms Fumigated (General).

176 rooms were fumigated for general precautions other than Infectious Diseases.

CASES OF INFECTIOUS DISEASE NOTIFIED DURING 1941.

NOTIFIABLE DISEASE.	Cases Notified in Whole District.							Total Cases Notified in each locality.									Cases removed to Hospital.	
	At all Ages.	At Ages—Years.						Old Lynn South of Purfleet	Old Lynn North of Purfleet	North End over Railway line	Higgate, Gaywood Rd. etc.	South Lynn within.	South Lynn without.	West Lynn.	Gaywood.	Council Houses.		Hospital and Infirmary.
Scarlet Fever	104	—	31	58	7	6	2	—	8	6	6	14	13	9	5	—	—	36
Diphtheria	23	1	5	64	1	2	—	—	1	—	2	3	2	—	3	—	—	9
Pneumonia	44	6	17	6	2	7	5	1	4	7	4	4	13	—	9	—	—	—
Mumps	9	—	1	7	1	—	—	—	1	—	—	7	—	—	1	—	—	—
Whooping Cough	205	18	139	45	3	—	—	—	8	19	26	39	62	5	34	—	2	—
Puerperal Pyrexia	4	—	—	—	4	—	—	—	1	—	1	5	—	—	1	—	—	—
Tuberculosis (Pulmonary)	18	—	—	—	3	11	4	—	3	3	1	2	—	—	—	—	—	—
Tuberculosis (other forms)	9	—	4	2	2	1	—	—	—	2	—	2	2	—	3	—	—	—
Erysipelas	6	—	—	—	1	2	1	2	—	1	1	—	1	—	1	—	—	—
Meningitis	4	—	3	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	2	—	—	—
Chicken Pox	71	1	34	33	2	1	—	—	2	4	2	11	38	6	7	—	—	—
Scabies	219	3	38	107	19	42	10	—	6	14	36	39	56	2	44	—	5	—
Cerebro Spinal Fever	7	—	2	3	1	1	—	—	5	19	35	42	20	4	37	—	—	—
Measles	173	5	99	59	5	5	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Ophthalmia Neonatorium	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Abortus Fever	1	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—
Totals	898	35	373	334	53	78	22	3	39	75	114	168	208	26	148	—	9	45

Tuberculosis. New cases and Mortality during 1941.

	New Cases				Deaths.			
	Respiratory.		Non-Respiratory.		Respiratory.		Non-Respiratory.	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
0	...	...	—	—	—	—	—	1
1	...	...	—	—	—	—	—	—
5	...	...	—	—	—	—	1	—
15	...	...	—	—	—	—	—	—
25	...	...	2	1	1	2	—	—
35	...	...	4	1	—	—	—	—
45	...	...	5	1	2	—	—	—
55	...	...	2	1	1	—	—	—
65	...	...	2	1	3	1	—	—
Totals	...	...	15	3	7	3	1	1



# Health Visitors' Report for 1941.

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*To the Council of the Borough of King's Lynn.*

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Madam and Gentlemen,

We beg to submit our Annual Report for the year ending 31st December, 1941.

During that period we have paid the following number of visits :—

To children under one year—First visits	...	...	311
Total visits	...	...	2026
To children between 1—5 years	...	...	5367
To Expectant Mothers—First visits	...	...	125
Total visits	...	...	399
Post Natal	...	...	155
Number of Foster Mothers—8			
Number of Foster Children—8			
Number of visits paid—39			

There were 157 sessions at the Infant Welfare Centre (including Ante and Post Natal Clinics) and we attended at each session.

We have the honour to be, Madam and Gentlemen,

Your obedient servants,

A. M. PARKER.

C. M. BENSON,

**Source of Water Supply.**

No change.

**Port Sanitary Regulations, 1933.**

No change.

**Measures against Rodents.**

The majority of the ships entering the Port were free from rats.

Owing to war conditions and instructions from the Ministry this year's report has been much curtailed.

In conclusion, I would like to thank the Chairman and Members of the Health Committee for the assistance they have given me and to express my appreciation of the work done by the staff of the Public Health Department during the past year.

I remain, Madam and Gentlemen,

Very faithfully yours,

JAMES W. McINTOSH,

Medical Officer of Health.



